

John Henry Eaton to Andrew Jackson, December 8, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN H. EATON TO JACKSON.¹

¹ Erroneously filed in Jackson MSS., vol. 57, for the year 1820. The letter is badly mutilated. It illustrates the extent to which Eaton at this time assumed to make plans for Jackson's actions.

Washington, December 8, 1828.

D'r Gen, I have written to Mrs Jackson, [and refer] you to her letter for information on [the matters] of which it treats

Mr. Polk and Judge White have written to you I expect. As regards sending a Committee to Nashville our friends were of different opinions and hence no move could be made. They feared some exception might be taken by your enemies if any attempt were made to change the law so as to count the votes in January instead of February. But for that a Committee would have been dispatched

Your best route will be by the Ohio River most pleasant and easy. Most likely you will be compelled to go to Pittsburg; and will also have to delay a day at Louisville and Cincinnati. I suggest if it will not be better for you to decline all dinners; an opportunity for the people to see and be introduced to you will be enough, and much as you should consent to. All dinners had better be declined.

On reaching Pittsburg, your better plan will be to proceed down the turnpike direct to Baltimore [and thence] here, From the 15 to the 20 Feby should [be necessary to travel]

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to this place; and this necessity can be [employed] by you on the way as ground of [being unable] to accept the civilities of your friends [or turning] out from your direct march. Write me from Wheeling, and state your probable progress and I will endeavour to unite with you some where on your march.

The Pennsylvania Legislature may urge you to pass to Harrisburg their seat of Govt, where they are now in Session. I have wrote there to try and prevent any invitation from being given, by stating your feelings entertained for the citizens of that state and the pain a refusal to comply would afford. I hope my suggestions will prove effectual, and that they may forbear to subject you to the necessity of refusing.

Your friends in Phila, say you are also expected there; and if you visit Harrisburg, you will be constrained to do so. They say to me, that while all desire to see you, very many of your most ardent friends think it would be impolitic and hence prefer that you should not. I give you these hints that you may the better judge. N York too wants you there, and Virga and No Ca, are looking for you in their directions. Thus your [future] course of travel is full of perplexity [and your] best judgment must direct you what [to do.] I have replied to those who have [written to] me about it in this way—Genl Jackson [though] loth to disoblige friends, desires it, as right to come as direct as he can, to the City of Washington. After he is inaugerated, he will be at liberty, and then may gratify his friends [by] a visit thro the States to the North [where] for some years past he has been desireous to go, but from feelings of delicacy in reference to the election, has declined

Yrs truly,

PS. Since concluding my letter I have seen a resolution of the Legislature inviting you to Harrisburg on the 8. You will not be on so early, and therefore may escape; but if on your arrival at Pittsburg you shall be met with a second invitation by the State *Legislative*

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authority I can not tell how you can avoid accepting if you have time. I am in hopes my letters to that place may save you the necessity of any action on this matter hereafter.